रहे थे लेकिन उत्तर मैं हिन्दी में दूंगी यदि आपकी अनुमति हो तो ।

माननीया, यह सही है कि उस समय डेसू ने क गैस प्लांट के लिये कहा था । पर उस समय अबलेबिलिटी आफ फ्यूल नहीं थी, इसलिये उस समय विचार नहीं किया गया । लेकिन बाद में, क्योंकि फ्यूल अवेलेबल हो गया, इसलिये इस चीज पर विचार किया गया और सी०ई० ए० ने क्लयरेंस भी दे दिया । इसके बाद ग्लोबल टेंडर हुए और सबसे कम जिसके दाम थ, उसके आधार पर यहां पर 6.30 मेगावाट का गैस प्लांट लग भी गया है, कमीशन कर दिया है और यह कार्य भी कर रहा है ।

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Madam, it is a fact that electricity is one of the costliest powers. Even then gas turbine plants would be necessary because of the two main reasons. The production of gas our own R&D efforts and timely completion of 1500 KM HBJ pipeline , which travel from the West Coast to U.P. and all these areas. Now, the plants for which this gas is meant are not coming out to receive it especially two private companies and on public sector company. They are much behind the schedule. The gas is there, the HBI pipeline is complete but the purpose for which it was meant is incomplete. Madam, may I know from the Minister whether the gas would be wasted or they are thinking of some other alternative to supply the gas to the parties whether in Punjab or in Delhi or anywhere else in the country?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Madam, I share the concern of the hon. Member that the gas should be utilised as soon it is in a position to be transported from the HBJ pipeline. Therefore, the Gas Authority of India, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry have indicated that there is a feeling that the position might come when some of these projects might not be able to come up and the gas be not fully utilised and hence we have said that six customers have been located. They are, M/s. Indian Petro-Chemicals Corporation, Gujarat State Fertilisers Corporation, Gujarat State Electricity Board, Indian Explosives Ltd., D.E.S.U. and National Thermal Power Corporation. Therefore, we share the concern of the hon Member. As far as we know, no gas will be allowed to be wasted and customers will be forthcoming so that it is fully utilised.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA: Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to plead the cause of Punjab again. There is no doubt that in actual effect, there is tremendous shortage of power in Punjab now and it is likely to continue and as the pipeline has come up in this area they have to find out alternative customers. I would like to know as to why Punjab demand cannot be reconsidered.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: Madam, firstly, I beg to differ with the hon. Member that there is a tremendous shortage of power. There are States like Karnataka and some other States where the percentage of shortage is even 20 per cent and on an average, the country is facing a shortage of 9.4 per cent. Fortunately, for Punjab, I hope, it would be better. It is 4.2 per cent just now and I would say that there is not a tremendous shortage. The second point is about the pipeline having come up in this area. It has not come up in this area so far. Therefore, the infrastructure does not exist and unless the infrastructure in there, how can the gas be transported to that area ?

*382. [*The question (Shri S. S. Ahluwalia) was absent. For answer,* vide *col.* 28 infra].

Small Scale Units benefited by the Margin money Scheme

*383. SHRI BASUDEV MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale units which have benefited so far as a result of the introduction of the margin money scheme for revival of such industries and the total amount sanctioned as assistance;

(b) whether the scheme is being reviewed and if so, what are the details in regard thereto; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the margin money assistance can be utilised both for raising the working capital and defraying the loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) For the three years period 1983-86, Central assistance amounting to Rs. 142.90 lakhs was released to the State Governments/U.T. Administrations under the Margin Money Scheme for revival of sick industrial units. The assisted units are given a re-payment period of 9 years with a moratorium of 4 years. It is rather early to assess the number of small scale units rejuvenated from 1983-84 onwards in view of the gestation period involved in nursing the units back to health. As the scheme in its earlier form was not found to be effective it was revised in consultation with the State Governments.

(b) The revised scheme was communicated to the States and UTs during June, 1987. Under the liberalised scheme, the maximum amount of assistance has been increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000 per unit. Further while the normal percentage of assistance will be to the extent of 50 per cent of the requirement of margin money for non-tiny units and 75 per cent for tiny units, in exceptional cases this could be increased upto 75 per cent in the case of non-tiny units and 90 per cent in the case of tiny units subject, however, to the overall financial limit of Rs. 50,000 per unit. A new procedure for monitoring of the scheme has been prescribed.

(c) The loan under the scheme is meant to provide support towards equity to enable entrepreneurs to meet the margin stipulations of banks and financial institutions for the purpose of obtaining both working capital and term loan.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Madam Deputy Chairman, this margin money scheme was introduced by the Government and under this scheme assistance is given to the small scale units for their revival. But Madam, if you go through the answer of the question, you will come to the conclusion that the hon. Minister has not given a categorical answer. I wanted to know the number of small scale units which have been benefited so far as a result of the introduction of the margin money scheme and the total amount sanctioned so far. In this respect, I would like to ask the hon. Minister the total number of small scale units which have been benefited so far and the total amount sanctioned so far by the Government because the scheme was sanctioned in the year 1982 but the Minister has given the answer for three years giving the Central assistance amounting to Rs. 142 lakhs. But, I would like to know the latest position and the amount that has been sanctioned so far under this scheme.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, the scheme was introduced in January 1982 as the hon. Member has rightly pointed out and we have allotted Rs. 142.90 lakhs for the scheme upto 1986. The total number of units sanctioned by the State Government is 200 units but the number of units to which the amount actually disbursed is 75 units in all States.

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Madam, my second supplementary relates to part (b) of the question. I wanted to know whether the scheme is being reviewed and if so, what are the details in regard thereto. But Madam, the hon. Minister has stated in part (b) in his answer that assistance has been increased from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 50,000 per unit but he has not mentioned whether the scheme is being reviewed or not. My question is specific whether this scheme is being reviewed by the Central Government and whether the small scale units, after taking the money under margin money scheme are utilising it properly or not, So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any review has been done so far and what is the result and whether any new procedure for monitoring of the scheme has been prescribed and if so, what are the results?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Yes, Madam, the department has reviewed it. As far as we are concerned, we are not

getting the feed back from the State Governments. We have revised the scheme and we have enhanced the amount of loan to the units. As far as the total number of units is concerned, I have already mentioned, Madam. As far as this Scheme is concerned, the monitoring is being done by the State Governments.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Madam, small-scale industries are facing severe crisis in various fronts. They have not been provided with adequate financial assistance by the financial institutions. The share of the financial institutions in total is nearly eleven per cent, according to the press report. This is quite inadequate. More than that, the Government has recently decided to withdraw the concessional excise duty levied on the production input of small-scale units which resulted in the closure of so many units. In his answer regarding the margin money scheme, the hon. Minister stated that so far the Government has sanctioned nearly Rs. 1½ crores. But the number of sick units, according to the Economic Survey, in India, is 1,17,783. Under the marging money scheme, we have provided only Rs. 1½ crores. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: (1) Is this Government satisfied with the financial assistance provided? (2) How many applications were received by this Government under the margin money scheme? (3) How much amount was given?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Madam, previously the assistance under the margin money scheme was only Rs. 20,000/-. It was increased later upto Rs. 50,000/-. For tiny units with investment below Rs. 2 lakhs, the margin money is increased by 75 to 90 per cent. Now, the Finance Department has created the National Equity Fund. The Finance Department has allotted Rs. 5 crores and the IDBI has allotted an equal amount of Rs. 5 crores. So, there are ten crores for the rehabilitation of the sick small scale units. With these ten crores, all these units will get benefit.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Madam Chairperson, I am constrained to state that both the Central and the State Governments are not very serious about reviving the small scale industries. The amount released is only Rs. 1.5 crores in three years. That means about Rs. 50 lakhs a year. Only 200 units have taken advantage of that whereas there are more than one lakh small-scale units which are sick. Will the Government increase the amount and the assistance? If it is not done, I think it will take a hundred years to revive the small scale industries. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many sick units can be revived according to the study made by the Department, whether the Government will bring such a scheme by which assistance can be given to all the units which can be revived and in that direction, what the Government has done.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Madam, about small-scale industries, the Government is taking very particular interest. That is why the Finance Department created the National Equity Fund and we have Rs. 10 crores. Hon. Member mentioned we have distributed only Rs. 140 lakhs odd. This is because the applications are processed by the State Governments. The Government is more particular about assisting these units. That is why, the National Equity Fund has been created with Rs. 10 crores.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Madam Deputy Chairman, the Minister said that the equity fund has been created with ten crores. But under the old scheme about fifty lakhs per year was sanctioned. I would like to know from him specifically, what will be the amount that will be available per year in order that sick industria units could be revived under the new scheme? What is the programme which is available with the Government to see that all these small scale sick units are really revived and what specific steps will be taken by the Government in order that these sick units are revived?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: It is only to revive these units this National Equity Fund was created with an amount of Rs. 10 crores. If it is not sufficient, we will increase the amount. It is the duty of the State Governments to send their proposals to the Central Government.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The replies given by the Minister are routing and ritual replies. What does it actually mean when, as my honourable friend has said, about 1,17,000 small scale industries on the sick bed? Secondly, the total Finance made available to them has been reduced from 21 per cent when the banks mere nationalised, to 11 per cent. Is the Minister satisfied with this state of affairs, leave alone whether I am satisfied or not; I am not satisfied? Mr. Minister, this is a two legged race—one being the Central Government and the other the State Governments. Schemes are there. You say Equity Fund has been created. But whatever has been made available is not utilised properly, is not implemented properly. Then what is the use of creating this Equity Fund if the State Governments lag behind? I feel, Mr. Minister, a very lukewarm attitude is shown to the cause of the small scale industry which has an immense potential of giving employment; not only employment, a big turnover, the value added—all these go in favour of the small scale industry. And the Government is only having paper schemes without an iota of sincerity in implementing the schemes. Therefore, I would like to know what the Minister's reply is and how the pace can be accelerated.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Government's attitude is not lukewarm. We are very sincere. Small scale sector is a very important sector. It can create more jobs, more production, more exports, compared to the public sector units. Government has created this National Equity Fund only because it is sincere in its efforts and is very particular about the small scale sector. But the State Governments should send their proposals to the Government of India. Then only can we take action.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The small scale industry is helping Government in getting more exports, thereby getting a lot of foreign exchange. But, as has been explained by the honourable Member, small scale units have been neglected and there are a lot of sick units for various reasons. My question is this. The honourable Minister spoke about a new procedure for monitoring the schemes. I would like to know whether Central Government officials will be participating in the monitoring at the State level for the purpose of reviving sick units.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: No. It is the duty of the State Governments to monitor it. Of course, representatives of the IDBI, the financial institutions, are there in the committee.

श्री अजीत जोगी : उपसभापति महोदय, यह योजना सबसे पहले 1983-84 में चालू की गई थी और उसके बाद तीन या चार साल तक चलती रही और कोई प्रगति इसमें नहीं हुई । पूरे देश में लगभग डेढ़ सौ करोड़ रुपये स्माल स्केल यूनिट्स को दिये गये अब माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह बताया है कि इसे पुनर्निरीक्षित किया गया है और जुलाई, 1987 से कुछ संशोधन कर के फिर चालू किया गया है । संशोधन के विषय में उन्होंने केवल दो बातों का उल्लेख किया है कि एक तो अमाउन्ट बढ़ा दिया गया है और दूसरा जो प्रतिशत सहायता दी जाती थी वह बढ़ा दी गई है । इसके अलावा बहुत से ऐसे कारण थे जिनसे यह योजना नहीं चल पाई एक बड़ा कारण यह था कि इसकी जानकारी सिक स्माल स्केल यूनिट्स को नहीं है । उनको नहीं मालूम है कि उनको इस योजना के अन्तर्गत फायदा मिल सकता है । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि इस योजना के प्रचार प्रसार के लिये सरकार क्या कर रही है और साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि चूंकि इस योजना का फायदा इसलिये नहीं उठाया जा सका क्योंकि सहायता प्राप्त करने के लिये जो प्रक्रिया बताई गई है जो प्रोसीजर बताया गया है वह बहुत कठिन है, तो उस प्रक्रिया को कम करने के लिये क्या किया जा रहा है और प्रचार-प्रसार करने के लिये क्या किया जा रहा है, यह बताने की कृपा करें ?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Madam, every year, in the Industry Ministers' Conference, we discuss all these problems and sufficient publicity is given. Actually

on the suggestion of the State Governments, the State Industry Ministers, only this margin money was increased from twenty thousand to fifty thousand rupees and for big units up to two lakhs and the enhancement is about 75 to 90 per cent. We are very much interested in the small units and every unit knows it. The State Government is well aware of the schemes and there is no need for any further publicity.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Next Question. Question No. 384. Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta.

Import of Synthetics as a Substitute for Jute

@*384. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:†
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import synthetics as a substitute for jute for making gunny bags;

(b) if so, what is the quantity of synthetics imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware that this decision will have adverse effect on the crisis-ridden jute industry; and

(d) if so, what corrective measures are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

@Previously Starred Question 304, transferred from the 18th August, 1987.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. The Government has not taken any decision recently specifically to import synthetics as a substitute for jute for making gunny bags. However, in view of the demand for plastics raw materials (HDPE/PP) being far more than the available indigenous supplies, Government has allowed imports of these materials under OGL in the Import Policy of 1985|88. Apart from HDPE|PP woven sacks which supplement the packaging needs of the country, these raw materials have many other applications like films, monofilaments, extruded and moulded products.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, the reply given by the honourable Minister is wonderfully vague and extremely evasive. I wanted to know from the Minister the quantity of synthetics imported during the last three years and his replay is does not arise". In the course of his reply to the first part of the question he says, "However, in view of the demand for plastic raw materials (HDPE| PP) being far more than the available indigenous supplies, Government has allowed imports of these materials under OGL in the import Policy of 1985—88.". Therefore, these two parts are contradictory, these two parts of his answer are contradictory. Anyway, my point is that a strong lobby is working within the Government itself and I call this lobby as the synthetics lobby. A number of members of the Government, that is, at least three members of the Government, that is, at least three members of the Council of Ministers are working..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You please put your question.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am coming, Madam. Let me frame it, Madam, I have got some information and I have to frame my question according to that. Unfortunately, if you disturb me, I cannot put the question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you exceed two minutes, then I have to do that.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I am coming to the point now.